

Purple Heart recipients are military personnel wounded as a direct result of enemy action.

Councilman Bobby "Gravedigger" Keisler sponsored the resolution to designate Lexington County as a Purple Heart county.

"It is important to support veterans and the people who served our country," Keisler said. He said James Miller asked him to sponsor the Purple Heart designation. Miller, of South Congaree, is the state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Miller lives in Keisler's district.

"It's an honor to do it," said Keisler, who served a six-year stint in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era.

John B. Testruth is the Adjutant of Chapter 402. The chapter is the largest of the 13 in South Carolina. It has 298 members. Testruth said the Purple Heart Chapter also raises funds to donate to causes for veterans. He also said the county is supportive of veterans in general.

"Lexington is a very patriotic county," Thornburgh said. "People are supportive and appreciate those who served."

IN RECOGNITION OF PULASKI DAY 2012

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio as they unite the Polish community in remembrance and celebration of General Casimir Pulaski, for his legacy and dedication to the people of Poland and United States of America.

Born on March 4, 1747 in Warzka, Poland, General Pulaski achieved great military success in Poland with his focused leadership and strategies in fighting the Russian forces in Poland. By 1777, General Pulaski had become one of the most renowned cavalymen in Europe and was actively recruited by Benjamin Franklin to assist in the American quest for liberation.

Sympathetic to the American cause, General Pulaski sailed to America and was made head of the newly formed American cavalry during the Revolutionary War. General Pulaski had a deep level of commitment to the American cause, spending his own money to feed and equip his troops. General Pulaski was involved in many significant battles during the Revolution. His ultimate stand took place in Savannah, Georgia on October 1779, where he led a valiant charge against British artillery. General Pulaski was shot and died a few days later.

This year's celebration will be held on October 20 at Cleveland's City Hall Rotunda and will feature Dr. Marek Dollar, Ohio's Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland. Dr. Dollar is also the Dean of the Engineering College at Miami University.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of General Casimir Pulaski, who made the ultimate sacrifice in his fight to secure the ideals of the American Revolution. An American hero, General Pulaski's life and legacy serves as a reminder of the vital contributions and great achievements by Polish immigrants within our Cleveland community, and throughout America.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE COLLEEN TOY WHITE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my good friend Judge Colleen Toy White, who was recently honored by the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation with its General Roger L. Brautigan Excellence in Leadership Award.

I have known Judge White since she served as Chief Deputy in the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. We both trace our roots to Oklahoma, and share and respect the values of family, and of upholding the Constitution and the rule of law.

Judge White combined those values with drive, talent, and intelligence and rose from a law clerk in the prosecutor's office to become the chief assistant district attorney, the number two position. She also brought those values and qualities to the bench when she was appointed to the Ventura County Superior Court by Governor Pete Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, the General Roger L. Brautigan Excellence in Leadership Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the cause of veterans.

Judge White knows of veterans' needs directly. Her husband, Art Bliss, is a retired naval officer and several of her nephews are active military.

Her knowledge of veterans' needs led her to provide the ground work and to advocate for a veterans court. Judge White now presides over the veterans court, in addition to presiding over the domestic violence court, elder abuse court, and mental health court.

In addition, Judge White has been instrumental in assisting other courts to develop veterans programs.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge White is active in community organizations involving our youth and education. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Ventura/Santa Barbara College of Law and is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Ventura College Foundation. She served as president of the Board of Directors of Interface Children Family Services of Ventura County and was a past president and member of the Board of Directors of the Child Abuse and Neglect, an organization dedicated to the protection of children.

She was appointed Chairperson of President Reagan's Council on the Peace Corps and was appointed to a second term by President George H.W. Bush.

Not surprisingly, Judge White has won numerous awards for her service to the law and her community.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Colleen Toy White is a deserving recipient of the General Roger L. Brautigan Excellence in Leadership Award. It has been an honor for me to call Toy White my personal friend for a long time. She is someone for whom I have the highest respect, and I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in congratulating Toy for this great honor.

IN HONOR OF CHRIS TREPAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chris Trepal, who is retiring from the Earth Day Coalition, one of the major forces in Northeast Ohio to promote environmental education, protection, and advocacy.

In the late 1980s, as the nation coalesced around how to best acknowledge the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day of 1970, Chris was a parent, educator, and volunteer for the Sierra Club. Called by Governor Richard Celeste, Chris attended an organizing meeting at Cleveland State University and was moved to action to fight for the environment. Along with Scott Sanders, Chris co-founded the Earth Day Coalition in 1990 and until her retirement was co-director with Sanders.

In the last 23 years, Chris has been a visionary who organized the "Annual EarthFest" and "Walk or Bike for the Earth." Every spring at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, the EarthFest has been the largest and longest-running environmental education event in the State of Ohio. It is widely attended and is the place-to-be for non-profits and leaders who want to promote their causes.

For more than 10 years, Chris worked with the region's best environmental education experts, naturalists, and interpreters to establish the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, formerly Dike 14. Officially opened in February 2012, the Preserve is 88 acres of wild lands along Lake Erie in the heart of Cleveland with almost 300 species of birds who live and migrate on the site along with butterflies and mammals such as the red fox, mink, coyote, deer and others. Chris led the Earth Day Coalition's efforts to convene and be the fiscal agent for the collaborative effort to establish the Preserve.

Chris is a founding member of the City of Cleveland's Air Pollution Advisory Committee, created by city ordinance. She has worked on clean air issues such as Diesel Hot Spots, idle reduction, and reining in mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants and the proposed City of Cleveland waste incinerator (which was stopped, based in part on the Earth Day Coalition's advocacy).

Chris Trepal is the recipient of numerous awards for the work she has done over the years, including: Conservationist of the Year by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District; Outstanding Conservationist Award by the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo; Award for Outstanding Service by the Lee-Seville-Miles Citizens; Greater Cleveland Woman of Achievement Award from the YWCA of Cleveland; Certificate of Environmental Achievement from the National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability; Golden Spruce Award from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission; and the Excellence in Education Award from the Better Business Bureau.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the many achievements of Chris Trepal as she makes the transition from her successful career as co-director of the Earth Day Coalition to the next phases of her life in retirement and wishing her much success in her next endeavors.